

Post-Event Summary Report

Name of Event: Hawaii County Committee on Aging Focus Group Session

Date of Event: December 15, 2004 and April 21, 2005

Location of Event: Nani Mau Gardens, Hilo, Hawaii

Number of Persons attending: 25

Sponsoring Organization(s): Hawaii County Office of Aging, Office of the Mayor

Contact Name: Alan Parker

Telephone Number: (808) 961-8600 **Email:** hcoa@gte.net

Please follow this format for each priority area, with the most important listed first.

Please ensure that your organization's name and contact information is provided at the bottom of each page submitted.

Priority Issue #1: (describe specific issue)

Barriers: (list any barriers that may exist related to this issue)

Proposed Solution(s): (list suggested solutions to the challenges described above)

Priority Issue #1:

Access to High Quality & Affordable Services

Barriers:

- Lack of centralized access point for information & services.
- Limited access to Health Care in rural areas
- Constant turnover of physicians (medical/dental)
- Worker shortage
- Lack of accessible Day Care, Respite Care
- Insufficient training for caregivers
- Lack of adequate transportation

Proposed Solutions

- A coordinated one-stop service center. Aging and Disability Resource Centers
- More day care, respite care in rural areas.
- More training programs for professional and family caregivers
- Expand mobile medical/dental care units.
- Provide incentives to medical/dental professionals to remain in rural areas.
- Establish long term contracts with physicians
- Mobile information and service delivery to clients
- Need for better coordination and resources for general and specialized transportation for elderly and disabled.
- Increased funding for Older American Act programs and services.
- Increase funding for rural transportation initiatives

Sponsoring Organization: Hawaii County Office of Aging

Contact Name: Alan Parker

Telephone Number: (808) 961-8600

Priority Issue #2:

Affordable & Accessible Housing

Barriers:

- Escalating costs
- Not enough subsidized Housing
- Long waiting lists for existing housing
- No central place and/or registration form
- Restrictive policies within existing complexes (i.e. No children, pets etc.)
- Distance from Housing to services & community resources
-

Proposed Solutions

- More accessible and affordable housing
- Standardize application process
- Better distribution of housing units
- Accommodations for grandparents raising grandchildren
- Development of alternative housing i.e. Assisted living, group homes, shared living – ADA compliance
- Housing in more accessible areas for services
- Transportation for existing housing complexes
- Bring services to consumers (i.e. Dept. of Human Services, social security)
- Standardize qualifying regulations and application process

Sponsoring Organization: Hawaii County Office of Aging

Contact Name: Alan Parker

Telephone Number: (808) 961-8600

Priority Issue #3:

Access to comprehensive and accurate information

Barriers:

- Not everyone has access to or use computers
- Lack of Transportation (general & specialized)
- Inadequate telecommunication system, or lack thereof
- Cost
- Training

Proposed Solutions

- Promote/provide telecommunication
 - Telemedicine
 - Video conferencing sites i.e. libraries
- Use available communication resources i.e. cable, satellite, TV programs to get info to public
- Mass distribution of VT/DVD, etc. in community centers
- Training provided for consumers via cable, satellite, etc. in own community
- Provide satellite access to government and service agencies
- Affordable and accessible transportation to services. Including specialized transportation for elderly and disabled that is ADA compliant
- Expand Share-A-Ride program

Sponsoring Organization: Hawaii County Office of Aging

Contact Name: Alan Parker

Telephone Number: (808) 961-8600